

HATFIELD MEETINGHOUSE

Church of the Brethren

1333 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440

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NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



“The Thanksgiving Challenge”

Two friends talking at their favorite coffee shop. . .

One: “Thanksgiving is coming, and you know what that means... cooking and cleaning!”

Two: “Yes, and it’s all that work for one day!” **One:** “Well not this year! This year the entire family is coming and that means not just cooking and cleaning but changing sheets and wondering what to feed everybody for breakfast.” Just then the chimes on the coffee shop door

jingle and in walks a woman carrying two shopping bags stuffed with odds and ends, apparently homeless. **One:** “Just listen to us. We sound like two ungrateful curmudgeons. That poor woman probably can’t pay for a cup of coffee.” Shrugging her shoulders, she grabs her wallet, and pays for the women’s coffee and apple fritter. **Two:** “That was nice!” **One:** “That wasn’t

nice, that was guilt! I don’t know why I see the glass half empty when it’s more than half full.”

Two: “We should stop complaining – it’s a bad habit.” **One:** “I know! We’ll give up complaining for Thanksgiving.” **Two:** “What’s your plan?” **One:** “A challenge. We’ll keep a

diary. Write down every complaint; then think of something to be thankful for and write that down too.” **Two:** “I accept the challenge.”

The two friends moved ahead with their challenge, finding it harder than they thought. They couldn’t believe how much they complained about trivial things. It was hard to believe they weren’t more thankful for family, friends, health; and with each complaint their minds kept wandering back to the homeless woman. They even found themselves praying for her. And as promised, for every complaint they wrote down a blessing. As the weeks passed, they noticed their notebooks recorded more blessings than complaints. They still complained, just not as much. Maybe the complaints dwindled because they realized how much they had to be thankful for. The Monday after Thanksgiving, they met again at the same coffee shop, comparing stories to the holiday weekend, and sharing what they had written in the pages of their notebooks.

One: “It’s interesting, I don’t complain as much now. And when I do, the complaints sound more like problem statement than whining.” **Two:** “I feel better about myself, too. And about life in general.” Taking a sip of her creamy latte, **One:** “I guess we owe that homeless woman a bushel of gratitude, don’t we?” **Two:** “Yeah. We sure do!”

Count your blessings . . . name them one by one.

Are you up for a challenge?



At the beginning of COVID, we allowed families to come twice a month, a change from years allowing only coming once a month. During the COVID years (yes, it is still around) we were averaging around 140 families per month. We have now returned to the “once a month” family visits, reducing the monthly average to around 120 families. The preference is to allow twice a month – not because of COVID but due of the cost of food and the reduction of SNAP (food stamps) funds.

An obvious reason for this change has been the reduced funds and grants available, another reason is our inability to properly accept deliveries and then stock shelves. Currently, our deliveries come on Fridays. Some deliveries may be early morning (7:30-8:00) and others late morning to early afternoon (11:30-1:30). That has the potential of a lot of standing around time for volunteers! While there is the potential to make larger orders from some of our “free” order sites (SHARE and Philabundance) it would entail even larger deliveries and more time stocking shelves for only one or two volunteers. **The bottom line is - there is a need for one or two additional volunteers to commit for Fridays. If you feel the call to assist, let me know.**

We are still in need of funds for coats for the Food Cupboard families. We are hoping for gift cards of \$25.00 for children 12 years old or younger. We anticipate there will be a request for over 250 coats. Appears we may have to reduce to \$15 gift cards. There still may be some outside monies available – fingers crossed!

A big thank you to those who volunteer for our scheduled “open” times. It has been a real pleasure to be part of our food cupboard days!

---Pastor Clay

Our Annual Coat Drive for the children of our Food Cupboard friends is under way. We anticipate over 250 children will be registered. We will be giving gift cards to the families for the coats, so they can purchase their coat in the correct size, color, gender, etc. If you would like to donate toward the gift cards for coats, please send your donation (**payable to Hatfield CoB**) to: Hatfield Church of the Brethren, Attn: COATS, 1333 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440. Our monetary goal is \$4,500.



Sharing the warmth of God's love one coat at a time.

“For the glory of God and our neighbor's good.”

November

Reminders, Notes, Tips

- PA state regulations state: vehicles must be turned off during drop off and pick up if an adult is not in the driver's seat.
- If your child wears snow boots or rain boots to school, please make sure they have an extra pair of shoes to wear in the classrooms.

Important Dates

Friendship House

- 16th Thanksgiving Feast
- 23rd & 24th closed Thanksgiving Break

North Penn

- Tues 7th closed Election Day
- 20th- 24th closed Thanksgiving Break



New Happenings

- We will be having a feast on Thursday, November 16th. We will be inviting parents and guardians for lunch. Please let us know if you will be attending.
- After our Thanksgiving break, certain children will be transitioning to a new classroom. Those families will get paperwork November 13th, which needs to be returned by November 22nd.

Weekly Themes:

30th- 3rd Halloween

6th-10th Emotions

13th-17th Fall Foods

20th-24th Thanksgiving

27th-1st Hibernation

Creative Curriculum Theme

3s and 4s: Pets



Recalls

Name of Product:

Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway Troublesome Truck & Crates and Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway Troublesome Truck & Paint

Hazard:

The small plastic piece containing a high-powered magnet that connects one train to another can detach or become loose, posing choking and magnet ingestion hazards.

Remedy:

Refund

Recall Date:

October 19, 2023



FOCUS ON FOLKS!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

17 – Paula Kinsey
21 – Clay Moyer
30 – Jean Wagner

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

10 – Don & Annette Hanks



DON'T FORGET!!!!!
Turn your clock back on
Saturday, November 4th
Fall back in the fall.

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

✚ Sunday, November 26th following Morning worship. Please join as we look back over 2023 and make plans and dreams for the Church in 2024. All members and friends are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION NOVEMBER 2023

Greeters

Don Hanks, Rob Hanks, Dan Sibley

Worship Leaders

05 – Robin McMahan
12 – Annette Hanks
19 – C Holbert
26 – Pastor Lynne Allebach

Accompanist

05 – Annamarie Dieterle
12 – David Himmer
19 – Annamarie Dieterle
26 – Annamarie Dieterle

Message

05 – Pastor Clay Moyer
12 – Pastor Lynne Allebach
19 – Pastor Clay Moyer
26 – Pastor Lynne Allebach

Steward Counter

Connie Holbert – Treasurer

Stats for October 2023

Average Worship for October:	14
Offering Received for October:	\$6,701.00
Offering Needed for October:	\$6,515.00

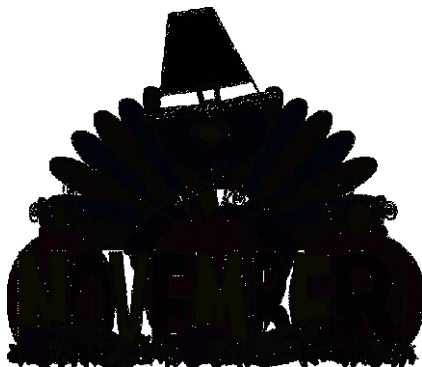
GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

Offering Coats:	\$1,540.00
Offering Missions:	\$ 25.00
Offering Food Cupboard:	\$1,000.00

FAITHFUL COMMUNITY

What Is Happening?

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Friday, November 3rd

**ECR Women's
Prayer Meeting**

10:00pm – 1:00am.

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Saturday, November 4th

ECR Worship Team

Noon – 2:00pm.

TIME CHANGE

Fall back in the fall!



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Sunday, November 5th

Wired Word Bible Study

w/ Fellowship Time

Morning Worship

10:00am.

ECR Worship

11:30am.

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Tuesday, November 7th

Election Day

Get out and VOTE!

Tuesday, November 7th

Food Cupboard

Noon – 1:30pm.

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Wednesday, November 8th

**Thanksgiving Turkey
Handout for F.C. Friends**

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Saturday, November 11th

ECR Worship Team

Noon – 2:00pm.

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Sunday, November 12th

Wired Word Bible Study

w/ Fellowship Time

Morning Worship

10:00am.

ECR Worship

11:30am.

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Monday, November 13th

Worshipful Work

7:00pm.

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Saturday, November 18th

Food Cupboard

10:00am. – 11:00am.

ECR Worship Team

Noon – 2:00pm.

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Sunday, November 19th

Wired Word Bible Study

w/ Fellowship Time

Morning Worship

10:00am.

ECR Worship

11:30am.

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Tuesday, November 21st

Food Cupboard

Noon – 1:30pm.

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Thursday, November 23rd

**Happy Thanksgiving
GIVE THANKS**

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Saturday, November 25th

ECR Worship Team

Noon – 2:00pm.

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Sunday, November 26th

Wired Word Bible Study

w/ Fellowship Time

Morning Worship

10:00am.

**Congregational Business
Meeting**

10:45am.

ECR Worship

11:30am.

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Monday, November 27th

Food Cupboard

6:30pm – 7:30pm.



**We will decorate the
Church for Advent/
Christmas on Saturday,
December 2nd at 2pm.
Please join us.**